

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05

NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /057 W

----- 035775

O P 091615Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8534

FAA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAHINGER GERMANY PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK PRIORITY

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BRUSSELS AND LAGOS FOR FAA

SECDEF FOR ASD/ISA (AFRICA REGION)

USCINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7-SAME

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, US, LI

SUBJECT: GOL REQUEST FOR FAA ASSISTANCE IN ANALYZING MESURADO

C-401 ENGINE

REFS: (A) 75 MONROVIA 7804 (NOTAL), (B) CLIBMISH MONROVIA A-005

DTG 072143 JAN 76 (NOTAL), (C) FAA WASHDC DTG 072143 JAN 76

(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. AS PREDICTED REF A, NOW THAT ENGINE
RECOVERED, GOL HAS REQUESTED USG ASSISTANCE IN ANALYZING ENGINE
OF MESURADO C-401 CRASH (IN WHICH PRESIDENT'S BROTHER WAS KILLED).

REF B FROM CHIEF, US MILITARY MISSION REQUESTED INFO FROM FAA

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ON HOW TO PRESERVE ENGINE AFTER IT RAISED. REF C PROVIDED THAT

INFO WHICH HAS BEEN PASSED ON TO GOL. ENGINE RECOVERED, PRESUMABLY PREPARED ACCORDING TO FAA INSTRUCTIONS AND NOW AWAITING SHIPMENT TO U.S. SINCE GOL BELIEVES FAA ASSURED IT WOULD ANALYZE ENGINE IF FOUND, REQUEST EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED INSTRUCT GOL SHIP ENGINE U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. ENGINE WAS RECOVERED AFTERNOON JANUARY 7, AND WAS TRANSPORTED BY AIR LIBERIA TO MONROVIA UNDER PERSONAL ESCORT OF ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR TRANSPORTATION CAMPBELL. FINAL SWEEP OF SALVAGE SITE FOR MISCELLANEOUS AIRCRAFT PARTS CONDUCTED BY LCDR ANDERSON USN (SIX FLT SALV OFF) ON JANUARY 8, WITH ASSISTANCE OF TWO LOCAL DIVERS. GOL CONTINUES TO REQUEST USG ASSISTANCE IN EVALUATION OF ENGINE. CAMPBELL REPEATED REQUEST TO EMBOFF TODAY, SPECIFYING GOL DESIRE THAT FAA CONDUCT INVESTIGATION RATHER THAN ENGINE OR AIRFRAME MANUFACTURERS.

3. GOL ASSURES US THEY WILL PREPARE ENGINE PER FAA INSTRUCTIONS (REF C) AND CAN SHIP AS EARLY AS JANUARY 10, ABOARD PAN AM 185 ARRIVING KENNEDY MORNING JANUARY 11. AIR LIBERIA CHIEF PILOT JEHU RICHARDSON PLANS SUPERVISE MOVEMENT OF ENGINE BETWEEN MONROVIA AND N.Y. WE HAVE ADVISED GOL DELAY SHIPMENT ENGINE PENDING WASHINGTON CONFIRMATION THAT FAA PREPARED TO RECEIVE ENGINE AND CONDUCT INVESTIGATION.

4. FYI: SITUATION HERE HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT CONFUSED. IN MIDST OF PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION FESTIVITIES, TOP-LEVEL PRESIDENTIAL AIDE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE WHICH FORWARDED FAA IN REF B. SUBSEQUENTLY, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (WHICH HAD NOT CONSULTED WITH US ON POST-RECOVERY OPERATION) STATED THEY HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH FAA NEW YORK AND WERE SHIPPING ENGINE TO NEW YORK JANUARY 8. DETAILED CHECK INDICATED THAT LAST CONTACT BY GOL WITH FAA OFFICIALS WAS WITH SID WHEATLEY (DURING HIS LAST VISIT HERE, PRESUMABLY JUNE 75) AT WHICH TIME, ACCORDING TO GOL, IT WAS TOLD ALL IT HAD TO DO WAS FIND ENGINE, SHIP TO NY AND FAA WOULD DO THE REST. END FYI.

5. COMMENT: WHILE EMBASSY AND USMM HAD PROCEEDED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTING GOL IN SEARCH AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS ON ASSUMPTION CONDITIONS CONTAINED PARA 3 REF A, GO OBVIOUSLY BELIEVED IT ALREADY HAD ASSURANCES FROM FAA IT WOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION. IN CONVERSATION TODAY, EMBOFF AND CHIEF USMM ATTEMPTED EXPLAIN CAMPBELL THAT FAA INVESTIGATION COULD NOT BE GUARANTEED. HOWEVER, IT CLEAR THAT GOL STILL EXPECTS US TO FINISH ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION ALREADY STARTED WHEN FAA TEAM CAME TO MONROVIA LAST YEAR. IT

CLEARLY IN BEST INTEREST OF USG THAT THIS MATTER BE
SETTLED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. END COMMENT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED CONFIRM
TO GOL THAT ENGINE WILL BE ANALYZED BY FAA OR NTSB AND
RESULTS PROVIDED GOL ASAP. REQUEST EMBASSY BE PROVIDED
WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOL AS TO WHEN AND WHERE TO SHIP
ENGINE. SINCE ENGINE OUT OF WATER AND ITS CONDITION
POSSIBLY DETERIORATING, TIME IS OF ESSENCE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE FAA
Type: TE
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